

Concrete Incased Grounding Electrodes

Most entities involved in the construction industry, either as electrical contractors, designers, engineers or inspectors, agree that it is important to inspection departments and jurisdictions to strive for the most consistency and uniformity possible when enforcing the requirements of the *Code*. The 2005 National Electrical has a change that will affect all of us involved. NEC 250.50 of the NEC deals with the Grounding Electrodes, the change is that a Concrete Incased Grounding Electrode is now required. This causes an interesting situation where there is no other electrical work ready to inspected when the footings are being poured. Because this is part of the electrical system, licensed electrical personnel should be used to install the grounding electrodes and permit the job at this time. It is very apparent that an inspection of a concrete incased grounding electrode needs to be carried out in a timely manner and that timing of such an inspection will be difficult at best. The Electrical Bureau proposes that 20 feet of not less than ½ inch reinforcing bar be installed in the concrete near the bottom and a stub turned up at near the service panel location. In order to insure that at least 20 feet of reinforcing bar is in the footing more than one reinforcing bar will need to wire tied together. In the interest of consistency we are requesting documentation of this reinforcing bar be noted by inspection staff on the job for the electrical inspector to verify.

